

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information:

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Illinois Law Requires All Children to Start School by Age 6 Years

CHICAGO – The compulsory minimum school age for students in Illinois is lowered from 7 years to 6 years effective July 1, 2014, as a result of legislation passed the Illinois General Assembly.

Public Act 098-0544 requires all children in Illinois between the ages of six and 17 to attend school, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

“I am happy to say that Chicago and many other communities in the Eighth District and across the state of Illinois have full day kindergarten available to begin building the foundation for a successful school career. I strongly urge parents to take advantage of the new law and enroll their child or children in an academic program to give them a fair chance to be productive members of their families and to help strengthen the weaknesses of humanity,” said Ford.

“As we commemorate the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 this week, we must be inspired by the dream to continue work for a more fair and just society. Studies show that by the end of the 4th grade, low-income students are already two years behind grade level. By the time they reach the 12th grade, they are four years behind. Investing in education for younger children helps to give them a head start and also saves tax dollars by reducing future costs for remedial education. This new law will help to reduce truancy and will strengthen a child’s ability to grasp the critical foundation of basic skills for a successful school career,” said Ford.

Article 10 of Illinois’ Constitution provides that a fundamental goal of the people of the state of Illinois is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities. Article 10 further states, ‘The state shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services.’

“This new law will help children to develop the social and academic skills that will give them a better chance at success in the future, leading to a stronger workforce, stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger future for a better Illinois,” said Ford.

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962).

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